

THE WIZARD OF TUSKEGEE

Mr. R. W. Thompson Presents a Graphic Picture of Booker T. Washington in Colors True to Nature and to Fact.

Character and Work of a Practical Educator and Economist—Efficacy of Harmony Between the Races in the South—Facing the Situation as It Is—What Mr. Washington's Philosophy Really Teaches—The Warrant by Which He Speaks for the Negroes of the Land—Knowledge Disarms Critics.

The recent address of Mr. R. W. Thompson before the Congressional Lyceum in Odd Fellows' Hall on "Booker T. Washington: The Real Man Contrasted with What He is Said to Be," was a graphic picture of the character and work of the race's greatest educator and economist, drawn in colors faithful to nature and to fact. A large and representative audience was present, every seat in the spacious hall being taken. In times past the an-



MR. R. W. THOMPSON.

nouncement that such an address was to be delivered would have precipitated an attack of the most vicious character from critics who had not taken the pains to inform themselves of Mr. Washington's views on public questions, and who knew nothing of his remarkable achievements. But printer's ink has so widely diffused the strong and manly sentiments of the Tuskegee Wizard, and the value of his educational system is so well known to all who read as they run, that few have the temerity to mount the rostrum in opposition, and still fewer can hope for a tolerant hearing from an intelligent audience. Thus a meeting where the foes of industrialism were afforded the freest latitude for expression, became a veritable "love feast."

Mr. Thompson reviewed the entire public career of Mr. Washington, and answered in detail the criticisms recorded against him, quoting from speeches and presenting data that could not be controverted. Mr. Thompson said in part:

"I come today to talk about a man of our race, who has risen by his own might from the depths of human bondage, from the darkness of slavery, and from the thralldom of ignorance and poverty to the highest development offered by freedom, intelligence and industry."

I come today to analyze with you the character and methods of a man who has won fame on two continents by the sheer force of his personality and labors and whose ears have been made to ring with the plaudits of the foremost scholars, statesmen, scientists, sociologists, and economists of America and Europe, without regard to race, color, creed or condition. I shall assume that 95 per cent. of the thinking element of the Negro race understands and appreciates the great work that is being accomplished by Mr. Washington for the uplifting of the race.

"Mr. Washington is nothing if not practical. He believes in facing the situation as he finds it—not as he would have it. He sees, with the clear vision born of experience, that force cannot settle moral problems, and appeals to the enlightened influences of civilization and to the arbitrament of time for the adjustment of our grievances. The South cannot, any more than can any individual, be brought to a realizing sense of its duty to the Negro by persistent abuse. Mr. Washington counsels harmony between the races—not the harmony of surrender, but the harmony of mutual forbearance, mutual acknowledgment of interdependent relations and mutual helpfulness, to the end that all may reap the benefits that come from unity of purpose and concert of action in doing all that can be done for the development of our common country and for the redemption of the South."

It has been my fortune to see much of Mr. Washington, and I know him to be honest, genuine, sincere. He says in private what he says in public. He says in the South what he says in the North. He is no politician or partisan. His theories are agreed to by as many republicans as democrats, and to the leaders of both parties he is a welcome visitor, and the custodian of their respect and confidence. He is well poised and sensible. Flattery cannot spoil him and censure cannot discourage him. He goes at every undertaking cautiously, but it is the caution of the

pioneer, conscious of the dangers that must be met and overcome by approaching them in the right way—not the hesitation of the coward or trimmer. He is polished in manner, clear in speech, and never forgets that to a large degree, he is taken as a standard of the possibilities of his race, and bears himself at all times with a dignity that is becoming to his position. He is equally at home among the simple farmers of the black belt of Alabama and with the dukes and lords of Europe. He has reached the point where he no longer seeks honors—they are thrust upon him, and thus proves his principle; "Get something that some one wants, and he will come to you, regardless of the color of your skin or the texture of your hair." He stands up manfully for the good people of the South, and he condemns the bad ones; he praises the growing spirit of thrift and enterprise of his section, and he denounces her lawlessness. He pleads for an educated ballot as a means of placing a premium upon intelligence in both races, but insists that the present law shall remain until there is assurance that a qualified suffrage will apply to black and white alike. He asks that the young Negro take hold of the common things of life from which white men are growing rich and dignify them by doing them in an uncommon way. He says to them, get a bank account and property, and no ballot box keeper will turn away from the police the man who owns half the block in which the polling place is located. He says there is not a grain of prejudice in the American dollar, and tells you that independence is a myth and "claims" to recognition will remain empty claims until you demonstrate your capacity to do something more than talk—own something—make something—manage something, and make yourselves the indispensable factors in the upbuilding of a community. Develop an employing class and be able to make the politician who wants your influence hunt you up and tell you what he will do for your people—instead of haunting him for the price of a pair of shoes, until driven away as a mendicant. He believes in underpinning our racial structure with a reliable wage earning class, who will stand like an army, backing up the learned and professional leaders. He contends that we must be true to ourselves, and organize our capital, our labor, and our intelligence—not for offence, but for defence and advancement as a people. We must cease to be represented in the world's market by a cipher. We must begin at the bottom as the white man has done and then work upward—not the reverse. We must hold on to all we have in the way of employment, and find new ones. The man who makes a place for him self is more secure in it than he is one into which somebody has shoved him. We must weave ourselves as the Jew has done into the business and patriotic interests of the communities in which we live. The man who owns a large block of stock in a railroad line will not be forced into a "Jim Crow" car, and the owner of the ground upon which a big trust building stands, can always ride in the elevator. These are the homely truths, the enunciation of which has made Booker T. Washington the accepted leader of thought, political morals and social ethics among the Negroes of America—if not of the world. He is listened to because he has done something tangible. When his critics speak, they deal in what Shakespeare so pertinently terms "Words, words, words," and it is an open secret that the most violent of Mr. Washington's critics are those who have never heard him speak, nor have they read in full a single speech delivered by him. They too often judge him by what somebody told them they heard he had said. When Mr. Washington is asked by what warrant he speaks for a race of 10,000,000 souls, no word need he utter; he may simply point as I do now, to that miniature city of Tuskegee—his monument of thirty years of struggle and triumph.

He can tread her 2267 acres of land, and gaze upon her 42 buildings erected by Negro hands. He may grasp the hands of 1164 students from 23 states, and from Jamaica, Porto Rico, Cuba, Africa, and England, and show deeds in fee to \$300,000 worth of property.

This is the real Booker T. Washington. In the language of the Washington Post of this morning: "There is the model for the black and white alike. He has learned the secret of power and promotion. He is a true prophet of his race."

As such I commend him to you, my friends, and ask that any indictment that may be standing in your minds against him be quashed at once and for all time.

Mr. Thompson's able presentation of the character and work of this foremost Negro elicited much favorable discussion, and his remarks were applauded to the echo.

An interesting discussion followed, during which complimentary references were made to Mr. Washington's work, and to the comprehensive manner in which the subject was handled by Prof. Jesse Lawson, Dr. C. B. Purvis, Miss Frances A. Riley, Editor Manly, Dr. L. C. Moore, Prof. T. J. Calloway and others. Attorney W. C. Martin presided, and W. T. Menard acted as secretary.

The Christmas number of the New Crusade contains much of interest and help to parents. The leading article is, "The Santa Claus Myth," by Maria Crombie Wood. In it the author discusses, from a philosophical standpoint the question as to whether or not the little one should be taught to believe in Santa Claus. As all children have a greater or less amount of imagination which calls for cultivation, the author decides that the best plan is for parents to direct the imaginative activities.

Myths and fairy stories may be the means of education and the Santa Claus Myth, so the author tells us, may be used to embody the spirit of love and giving. (Ann Arbor, Mich. Single copy 10 cents. \$1 per year.)

"The Cruise of the U. S. S. Dixie in the Spanish-American War," by W. C. Payne, of 2714 21st street, N. W., Washington, District of Columbia, embodies all the points of interest which took place during her commission as an auxiliary cruiser in the U. S. Navy. The author, who was a volunteer on board during the war, contrived the idea of establishing an industrial school at Ponce, P. R., after visiting a wretched looking place called a school house, near the city of Ponce. He publishes this narrative solely to raise funds for this purpose.

The book is tastefully bound, and there could be no better souvenir of the war, especially for Marylanders. A copy can be had on receipt of 35 cents, postage prepaid, by addressing the author as above.

The Philadelphia Tribune, one of the race's very best newspapers published, owned and edited by that prince of quill-drivers, Chris J. Perry, has entered its sixteenth year. Brother Perry eminently deserves all of the abundant success he has achieved in the arena of high grade journalism. We cordially extend our best wishes.

The Colored American Text book, issued by the Colored American Publishing Company, Washington, D. C., is a valuable addition to political literature and is the first attempt on the part of colored men to give to the race a concise, succinct and intelligible summary of information eminently useful.—Blue Grass Bugle.

Miss Pauline E. Hopkins, a member of the Woman's Era Club of Boston, is about to publish a novel, "Contending Forces," which throws a strong light on the life of the colored race and treats of lynching and other crimes perpetrated against the colored people in the South, and the complications arising from these crimes.

BOOKMAKERS AND PARAGRAPHERS.

The Ethiopian is the name of a four page monthly, edited by Mrs. Ella V. Chase Williams, of Abbeville, S. C.

The author of "The Ship at Sea," and "Humble Homes in the Barracks" is James G. Cole, better known as "Al. vah" of Co. B, 24th Infantry.

After eight years of continuous service, Robert B. Russell has retired from the editorship and management of the Raleigh (N. C.) Blade.

A book of peculiar interest to the student of sociology and one which must appeal to all people who think, is "The Philadelphia Negro," recently published by the University of Pennsylvania. It is from the pen of Prof. W. E. B. DuBois, of the Atlanta University.

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Paul Lawrence Dunbar visited the University of Denver recently, and delighted the students by reading two of his poems, "The Warrior's Prayer" and "Angelica." The chapel was crowded with students from the various departments and with visitors from the city. Mr. Dunbar was introduced by Dr. Howe and was given flattering applause.

The College Arms, a paper published by the students of the Fellowship State Normal and Industrial College, for colored youth changes from a folio to a magazine. This change gives more attractiveness to the paper and much more convenience for reference. "The Arms" office has just received a Hercules stapling machine, a proof press and several fonts of beautiful job type.

The Atlantic Monthly of November containing as a "leader," "The Case of the Negro" by Booker T. Washington will interest every thinking colored man in the country. He proves that African colonization is impossible, that the race has doubled itself since freedom, that the South is the place for the Negroes, as a mass, and tells what the race must acquire in order to enjoy their full rights as citizens in the South. He shows that he is in favor of every kind of education high, intermediate and manual—and plenty of each.

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THE GRAND FOUNTAIN N United Order of True Reformers.

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Subordinate Fountains.

Subordinate Fountains are composed of males and females, sound in health and mind and of good moral character.

Conventions.—When joining the Order through Conventions, persons taken in from 14 to 50 years of age; when joining the Fountain by application persons are taken from 14 to 60 years of age complete.

Joining or Benefit Fees.—From 14 to 45 years of age \$4.80, at 50, \$6.10, at 55, \$6.80, at 60, \$6.80.

Death Benefits.—\$75.00 and \$125.00. Should death occur within the first year, \$75.00; after the first year, \$125.00 will be paid to the heirs, assigns or legal representatives.

Sick Benefits.—From \$6.00 to \$9.00 per month, paid weekly.

Monthly Dues.—Are 35 or 50 cents per month. Taxes are 80 cents annually paid semi-annually, January and July. The highest monthly dues secure the highest weekly sick benefits.

Life Membership.—Ten shares of Bank Stock costing each member \$5.00, share, make said member a life member. After paying dues and owning the stock one year, the fruits of the stock will pay the member's dues, and leave a handsome little balance each year. Just calculate. Monthly dues 50 cents per month, and taxes 80 cents per year, amount to \$6.80, and a dividend on the shares of stock at 20 per cent on the dollar, or \$1.00 per share, amounts to \$10.00 annually, which will pay the member's dues, \$6.80, and leave a balance of \$3.20. Should the dues be 35 cents per month, and 80 cents taxes per year, the monthly dues and taxes will amount to \$5.00 per year. The dividend of \$10.00 would pay the monthly dues and taxes and leave a balance of \$5.00.

Additional Benefits of Life Membership.—Should adverse circumstances befall a member, said member may take his ten shares of stock and Fountain policy and secure a loan from \$1.00 to \$88.00, which will enable said member to tide over the misfortune, pay up the loan, redeem his policy and stock, and go on his way rejoicing.

2. Rosebud Fountains (For the Children).

Rosebud Fountains are composed for children, male and female, from 3 to 14 years of age. Joining or Benefit Fees, \$1.50; paid spot cash or by instalments.

Death Benefits.—\$24.50 and \$37.00. Should death occur within the first year, \$24.50; after the first year \$37.00 will be paid to the parents or guardians.

Sick Benefits.—From \$1.50 to \$4.00 per month paid weekly; 50 cents, 75 cents and \$1.00 per week respectively. The highest monthly dues purchase the highest weekly sick benefits.

Monthly Dues and Taxes.—The monthly dues are 10 cents, 15 cents or 25 cents respectively, just as the Fountain may decide. Taxes, 10 cents annually paid semi-annually, January and July. The child is allowed to purchase shares of Bank Stock, which makes his policy self-supporting, with a balance each year.

3. The Regalia.

This Department furnishes all Regalia that is worn by the members of the Order. For style and prices write for price list.

4. Classes.

B and E Classes admit a membership, male and female, and secure life and death benefits.

E Class Policies are as follows:

CLASS B. TABLE.				
Age	Joining Fee.	Value of certificate	Annual Dues.	Paid Quarterly
14 to 25 years.	\$2.50	\$300.00	\$4.75	\$1.88
25 to 35 years.	2.75	300.00	4.75	1.88
35 to 45 years.	3.00	300.00	5.70	1.43
45 to 50 years.	3.25	140.00	6.65	1.66
50 to 55 years.	3.25	118.00	6.65	1.66
55 to 60 years.	3.50	90.00	7.60	1.90
60 to 65 years.	3.50	65.00	7.60	1.90

E Class Policies are as follows:

CLASS E. TABLE.				
Age	Joining Fee.	Value of certificate	Annual Dues.	Paid Quarterly
14 to 25 years.	\$5.00	\$500.00	\$9.50	\$2.38
25 to 35 years.	5.25	500.00	9.50	2.38
35 to 45 years.	5.50	500.00	10.40	2.60
45 to 50 years.	5.75	450.00	11.40	2.85
50 to 55 years.	5.75	400.00	11.40	2.85
55 years (Complete).	6.00	350.00	11.00	2.75

The ages are reckoned from the last birthday.

Remember that the applicant is benefited as soon as his policy is issued. The annual dues of either of the above named Classes may be divided into quarterly payments of three months each, payable the 1st of January, April, July and October.

The balance of annual dues remaining to the credit of each member after paying expenses will go to the purchase of bank stock for said member.

If dues are paid annually in advance, the member gets 5 per cent. draw back on cash, and his full proportion of annual dues. By the latter mode of payment each member is made his own collector, thereby making the membership independent of the agent and self-supporting, and the member receiving the percentage that would be paid to the agent to collect.

You will readily see that the members of either one of these classes are only required to meet once or four times a year, while the Fountains and Rosebuds meet twice a month.

Life Benefits.—The members of B Class are allowed to purchase 15 shares of bank stock, and two shares for each year of their membership. The stock yields a dividend of 20 per cent, or one dollar per share. Should misfortune befall them on their pathway of life, they may take their stock certificates and policies, and secure a loan after a given period of time.

Members of Class E can purchase 25 shares of bank stock, and two shares for each year of their membership, likewise they may take their policies and certificates of bank stock, and secure a loan after a given period of time. You will readily see that the membership, in either one of these Classes, like the Fountains and the Rosebuds, benefits the member in health, as well as in family in death.

5. The True Reformers' Bank.

THE SAVINGS BANK of the G. F. U. O. T. R. was chartered March, 1888. Its capital stock is \$100,000.00. It commenced business April 3, 1889. The amount of business to March 1, 1893, is \$3,458,100.00. The stock of this bank is sold to the membership of the Fountains, Rosebuds, B and E classes, and pays a dividend of 20 per cent. on the dollar. Persons can deposit their money on time or demand. The bank pays 4 per cent. interest on all time deposits. Money on demand are held subject to the orders of the depositors. Deposits are received from 10 cents and upwards. Special attention is given to the collection of notes and drafts.

In 1893 this was the only bank in Richmond which continued to pay out money to its depositors during the financial stringency, while the other banks were using scrip.

6. Real Estate of the U. O. T. R.

THIS DEPARTMENT manages and controls the property of the organization. It grew out of the necessity of having offices and buildings in which to carry on the business of the organization, and to furnish halls for the Subordinate Lodges. Buildings now owned, 12, farms, 3, dwellings, 2, hotels, 1, with a total value of \$104,000.00. Buildings leased, 13.

7. THE REFORMER, the Organ of the Order.

THE REFORMER is the Beacon-Light, the Head-Light, the General Messenger and the General Agent of the Brotherhood. It is a live race journal, with a circulation of 6,000. It is the medium of the Order, and its columns teem with all its doings and achievements. Send for sample copies. It is published weekly in The Reformer Printing office, Richmond, Va., having a first class job department and makes a specialty of high class work.